for the obituary, of course, but thought this particular write-up would interest you

D.W.

Herbert Scoville Jr

Herbert Scoville Jr, known to virtually everyone as Pete, died on 30 July 1985 after a long struggle with cancer. He was one of the best-known and most effective of the small body of US scientists who have worked full time for international arms control and disarmament. Like many of this group, he came to the conviction, as a consequence of working on military problems during and after World War II, that nuclear war was unacceptable and that arms control was essential. Once committed, he became a powerful voice for arms control and an important participant in US analyses and international meetings.

Scoville was born in New York on 16 March 1915. He graduated from Yale in 1937. Two postgraduate years at Cambridge University led to a PhD program in chemistry at the University of Rochester. Even before completing his PhD in 1942, Scoville was working on chemical-warfare research, and this effort continued through 1945. He then worked for the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington in 1946–47 on problems relating to the military uses of nuclear weapons. One of his major projects was an analysis of the effects of the 1946 Bikini nuclear tests. In 1948 he became technical director of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project. In 1955 he moved to the US Central Intelligence Agency as assistant director, and later became deputy director, with major responsibility for science-based methods of gathering and analyzing intelligence data. He was an early advocate of the use of aircraft and Earth-orbiting satellites to gather data about military activities within the USSR. But as he watched the acceleration of the nuclear arms race between the US and USSR, he became convinced that this path was dangerous and self-defeating, and he resigned from the CIA in the fall of 1963 to succeed me as assistant director for science and technology of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

At that time ACDA was still a very new and small agency. It was established in late 1960 and only had part of its new staff in place by early 1961. As ACDA's first assistant director for science and technology, I turned frequently to Scoville for advice, and so learned of his growing interest in arms control. Hence, when I returned to Cornell in the fall of 1963 it was pleasing and reassuring to know that my post would be taken over by none other than Scoville.

Scoville's years as assistant director of ACDA were very productive ones for him and for the agency. The successful negotiations of the Limited Test Ban Treaty had given ACDA visibility and momentum. The Geneva meetings of the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee were progressing vigorously and needed constant attention from ACDA. Among the accomplishments of the period were the Outer Space Treaty and the establishment of the Latin American Nuclear-Free Zone, both in 1967, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1969. In addition, there were analyses at ACDA and discussions in Geneva of another half-dozen possible arms-control measures, some of which led in 1972 to the SALT I agreement and the Antiballistic Missile Treaty between the US and USSR.

With the advent of a new Administration in 1969, Scoville resigned from ACDA and entered what was to be the crowning period of his life. For the next 16 years he would be a full-time public citizen dedicated to deeper understanding of and greater progress toward arms control and disarmament. During these fruitful and busy years he seemed to be everywhere and doing everything: He wrote two books, *Missile Madness* (1970) and *MX: Prescription for Disaster* (1981), and contributed many articles to other books and to journals. He frequently served as a witness at Congressional hearings, participated in innumerable conferences and committees, and was a widely sought-after public speaker. In 1981 he received the Rockefeller Public Service Award in recognition of his contributions.

A major part of Scoville's efforts were with nongovernmental organizations working toward peace and arms control. He spent two years as director of arms-control programs for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and later worked with the Federation of American Scientists. He was a co-founder of the Arms Control Association (1971), and was president of this influential organization from 1979 until his death. He was a frequent participant in international Pugwash meetings, and for several years was a member of the Pugwash International Council, its governing body.

But there were other sides to Pete Scoville. He was an outgoing person who enjoyed people and parties. Hip-joint operations left him dependent on canes for walking and almost eliminated his participation in outdoor activities, but one special love remained—fly fishing in Western trout streams. To watch him, canes and all, walk out into thigh-deep water in the Roaring Fork River of Colorado, fasten his canes to his belt and start casting a fly was an inspiring sight; to have him catch three or four fish to this writer's one was less inspiring, but not something that reduced the pleasure of his company.

Working full time in the US for peace and for arms control is no easy task. Government attitudes are conservative and ambiguous, and priorities change from one Administration to the next. The positions of the Soviet Union are not easy to understand, and their negotiators are tough. Even when the necessity of better control over nuclear weapons is recognized by both nations, getting a mutually acceptable agreement is anything but easy. It takes someone of great dedication and courage to stay with the problem through misunderstandings and setbacks. The secret of Pete Scoville's great influence was that even as he recognized the problems and difficulties, he maintained a deep sense of optimism that the problems could be solved and the difficulties alleviated.

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